



Discarded TV cabinet converted to a storage unit.

This space may be provided in a garage or a storage unit along the side or end of a carport or in a walk-in basement, or in a storage area incorporated into the house structure but accessible from the outside. Frequently in the country, a separate building may be available for storing garden and shop tools.

For the more creative or do-it-yourself people, many sources of information give directions on how to build various storage pieces. Units may also be purchased ready to assemble or ready to finish.

If you have the opportunity to plan a new house, be sure to allocate space for storage areas just as carefully as you do the remainder of the planning. You can also incorporate good storage into your house if you are doing major remodeling. Perhaps the greatest challenge of all is to develop adequate storage space in an existing house with minimum change and limited resources.

Window Treatments: Curtains, Shades, Shutters, Drapes

THIS YEAR's energy crisis points out the importance of the best selection of window treatments. The covering or lack of covering can make a difference in the comfort of a room.

Orientation of the opening is of primary concern when you are deciding what the covering should be. Depending on the amount of roof overhang, shade trees, and other shade, a window opening on the west or south side of the house can permit a great deal of heat to penetrate inside. Likewise, window openings on the north and east side can permit a great deal of coldness to penetrate inside. A good window treatment for these conditions should concern itself with insulating qualities.

There is a window treatment of a heat-producing nature. This consists of two layers of thin flexible vinyl plus a filling of nylon net interwoven with thin resistance wiring. It comes in flexible panels ranging in sizes of 2 ft. 2 in. by 4 ft. 2 in. up to 3 by 12 ft. Since the panels operate at about body temperature they can be painted without destroying the bonding.

A folding screen which has been permanently installed at a window can be covered with these heat-producing panels, painted, and finished with a trim. The trim may be one of the lovely fabric trims now available at your local fabric department or it may be a wood molding painted a matching or contrasting color.

There are many types of roller shades to fit almost any size window opening. They are available in a variety of fabrics, including some which are coated with an insulating material. This coating is usually white but may be silver colored.

Roller shades generally found in most drapery departments are fabric, plastic, or woven wood. Fabric shades may be rough linen weave or smooth cotton scrim-like cloth which has been heavily filled and sized to be more rigid. They may be fabric which matches or complements your wallpaper. These are sometimes available ready made but otherwise must be custom made.

I prefer shades having fabric laminated to a coated backing. The backing protects the fabric from sunlight and dirt which come through the window, and is a good insulator. A shade shop will do this process for you.

A charming effect can be obtained by using matching or companion fabric and wallpaper. This is especially good in the "vanilla type" subdivision house. You can give individuality to this type house without spending a great deal of money if you will use your ingenuity and time.

You can use one of the many available trims or cut the stripe from a fabric you can repeat on upholstery, table cover, or draperies. Or with Elmer's glue, a ball fringe or tassel fringe can be put on the bottom scalloped or straight edge of the shade. The fabric stripe may be glued on the shade about 2 in. from each outer edge, running from top to bottom. You may like more of these vertical stripes if your shade is wide.

How about adding macrame or crochet at the bottom of the roller shade?

Speaking of width of shade, be careful not to try to use a shade which is too wide, because it is too difficult to roll straight. If your window opening is 6 ft. wide use two 36 in. shades and a buckrum, fiberboard, or plywood strip wide enough to hide the space left between the shades. This strip can be covered with felt, fabric, trim, wallpaper, or may be painted. Perhaps some upholstery gimp applied at the edges of the painted wood strip would add interest. The strip used in the middle is nice to use all around the window too.

If you are artistic, try painting de-

signs on a good quality roller shade. I did "life size" figures from a chess set on roller shades in a home study/office of an olympic chess team coach.

Roller shades are particularly good for window openings in small rooms because they are not as bulky as draperies. They allow partial opening of windows for light and air. The amount of light coming into a room can be regulated.

Another method for trimming your heating and air conditioning bill is to cover your window openings with plantation type shutters. Our ancestors used shutters both inside and outside window openings for protection from the elements.

Shutters may have horizontal or vertical moveable slats to deflect direct sun rays and to regulate light and air while maintaining privacy within. These may be stained or painted to match adjacent walls in small rooms, thereby giving the effect of more space. You may want to use bright or contrasting colors to paint the shutters or pick up a color from wallpaper, carpet, or fabrics used in your room.

I have found that fruitwood stained shutters, used over white theatrical gauze shirred on a rod set inside the window frame, are very interesting in a library or a sitting room having glasscloth wallcovering. The theatrical gauze needs to be five fullnesses (five times the width of the opening), to cut down on glare from the glass yet let light in to make the room more pleasant. The shutters can be closed at night for privacy.

You might prefer to use one of the many lovely colors of theatrical gauze available at an interior design studio to use behind your choice of colors on the shutters. It is 100 percent linen which is durable and relatively inexpensive.

Instead of moveable slats in shutters, fill the frames with fabric. Stretch it on rods at each end and fasten it in-

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side or on the back side of the frame. Quarter inch adjustable rods and L hooks are easy to obtain and apply. You may have to cut them off some.

The frames may contain solid panel insets which may be stained, painted, or covered with wallpaper or fabric. Try painting an accent colored stripe on the beveled edge between the frame and panel. This stripe may be a metallic gold or silver to give a luxurious look to a library or bedroom.

Add to this a silver or gold colored French design handle and/or latch to complete the effect or to repeat those used on the French style furniture in the room. Sometimes a "look of luxury" can be accomplished at a comparatively small cost. Certainly metallic paint used in such small amounts of stripping is inexpensive.

To complement your patchwork handiwork around the house you might like to paint a stencil design on the panels, fill the frames with gingham or calico, or be a little fancy with lace. If you do not trust your drawing ability you can buy stencil patterns at a hobby shop where you also can buy paint for the stenciling.

Gingham, calico, and lace can be found in fabric departments at varying prices dependent upon quality. Be sure you buy fast colored and washable fabrics. If your fabric permits too much light to penetrate, you may line it with a washable lining.

How about an hour glass curtain stretched over another fabric? Stretch a gingham on rods at either end, set on back side of frame, and then stretch an eyelet embroidered hour glass over it on rods set inside the frames. Tie the hour glass in the middle with a ribbon bow, rickrack, or small silk flowers. Purchase the frames from a drapery department or cabinet shop. You can finish them yourself as well as make the fabric insets.

Shutters may be as tall as the opening, divided in the middle, or other lengths. Design principles being involved here lead me to install them as tall as the opening or divided in the middle, and with the widest margin

of the frame at the bottom end of each panel.

Plantation shutters or the adaptations are properly installed inside a window frame. Shutters may sag when the opening is too wide because there is a limit of support from hinges within a given space. It is best to install them as a pair for this reason.

Measure the window opening, subtract $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, and divide by 4. This will give you the width panel to buy in drapery or housewares departments. Sometimes it is necessary to shave off a small amount of each panel to fit the opening. Never shave it all off one panel.

Fasten two panels together with hinges, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch between panels. Then hinge one set of two to the window frame on the right side and one set on the left side, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch between frame and panel.

Be careful that hinges fastening the two panels together are on the window side while the hinges on the window frame are on the room side. This will allow shutter panels to lay back on the wall when folded and not into the room as an obstacle.

Use a Yardstick

A good way to make certain that shutters do not drag on the window sill is to use a yardstick. Lay it on the sill and set shutters on it while marking the screw holes on the window frame. This will allow clearance and not interfere with privacy.

Be different and purchase black HL hinges and a latch type closer for a Colonial or country-style look. If you are taking advantage of the many arts and crafts materials available in hobby shops, you might like to make enameled metal pulls for your shutters.

It is wise to do all shaving of wood and fitting of shutters into the opening before staining or painting shutters. If the hinges are removed the shutters can be spray finished. I find that lacquer paint works best because it can be thinner and thereby not clog

the moveability of the slats. Also, lacquer seems to be more durable as well as easy to clean because of the smooth finish.

Shutters may be painted with a brush while they are still hinged if you are neat with a paint brush. But remember, smeared hinges look ugly!

An exciting contemporary window treatment is woven wood. The use of colorful yarn woven into a variety of widths and shapes of wood slats makes a decorative window covering.

Flat wood slats vary from 1 inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide—and sometimes a variety of widths are used together. Round slats vary from match stick size to approximately 1 inch diameter. Round slats sometimes are cut to a half round, and a variety of sizes and shapes are used.

For added interest and individuality, colorful beads are intermixed with wood slats.

Ready-made woven wood window covering can be found in many drapery departments. Cost of these coverings varies according to the size of opening and the complexity of arrangement and amount of yarn and slats involved.

Custom-made woven wood offers a chance for you to choose the colors and kinds of yarn to be woven in a pattern that you design. Add to this a few strings of bright beads and a compatible color on the slats. You might like white slats in variable sizes with a wide band of colored yarn about 2 inches from the outer edges and down the center of the window.

Woven wood is very effective in the small rooms with strange "postage stamp" windows we see in houses today. Unlike heavy draperies, a feeling of airiness and more spaciousness results when woven wood is used on the surrounding area of the window wall to create an illusion of a large expanse of glass.

Double windows may be treated as one window by using only one panel of woven wood. You may want to put a cloth valance and side draperies around the woven wood, thus using it instead of a glass curtain.

Woven wood window covering can be hung to roll up with aid of cord or be pulled up in a pleated fashion. The wood slats also can be hung vertically on a traverse rod in the same manner as draperies. If these are not installed in wood, use toggle bolts to insure a secure installation. Regular screws tend to chew out surrounding sheetrock or plaster with the tugging of pull cords. A hole drilled with a rock bit slightly larger than the screw and filled with steel wool is good in cement or concrete block walls.

Woven wood is great to cut out the bright hot sun. Wood is a natural insulator. Oh, yes, you can install woven wood on the outside of your house and on the sun porch for practical and decorative purposes because most types will withstand weathering.

Draperies can be lined and interlined as an insulating factor. Choice of fabrics is important here. Open woven fabrics would permit the interlining or lining to show through the right side.

Cotton flannel is the best interlining. It comes in 36- and 48-inch widths and a choice of white, cream, and gray colors. Choice of color of interlining will depend on the drapery fabric chosen because you do not want to spoil the appearance of the finished product by having the interlining show through the right side.

A plain white fabric or printed fabric having large areas of white background will permit the color of interlining to penetrate through to the right side. Printed draperies look better when interlined anyway, and especially if they are on windows having extremely bright sunlight. The color and design get lost in that wash of light, thus destroying the effect.

You can make interlined and lined draperies yourself. Handle all fabric gingerly as fabric will become limp and lifeless when over-handled.

Make certain that outer drapery fabric is neither too loose nor too tight over lining and interlining. All three layers should fit together as one. Regardless of how expensive or inex-

pensive it is, a drapery fabric will look great only if it is neatly constructed and drapes properly. Avoid any pulling or weeping of fabric.

Draperies should be planned around the style of room they are serving. Each style has a design peculiar to itself. The design determines how short or long, how wide, where hung, what hardware is used, what fabric, and sometimes what color or colors.

An Early American room would call for double hung draperies with or without a shirred valance, and may have ruffled tie-back panels at the top half of the window for the cottage look. These draperies can be purchased or custom made.

A wide selection of these draperies is available in good but inexpensive fabrics. For a custom look try the unbleached muslin ones, and add your own choice of colored bias binding or fringe on the edge of the ruffle. Or add a 2-inch band the color of your carpet at the top edge of the bottom hems of the non-ruffled panels.

You can pipe the edges of the band with another color from your room. To be really Early American, make the band blue piped with red on the off white muslin.

It is difficult to add lining or interlining to draperies which have already been pleated, so in many cases they will have to be made when you desire protection from the elements. You can hang pleated insulated lining on a separate traverse rod behind ready-made unlined draperies.

Some drapery fabrics come with insulation backing applied. This is fairly successful. One disadvantage is that the holes from stitching show. Another might be the stiffness of the fabric which drapes nicely when pleated but cannot be used as an Austrian or Roman Shade.

Draperies can fit the window frame exactly but one purpose of a window is to have light and air plus a view or extension of indoors to outside. This being the point, I like to fit draperies so that when they are open there is as much of the window exposed as

possible without the adjoining wall showing.

To accomplish this, install drapery hardware 4 inches above the window opening. The back side of pleats or the hardware should never show on the outside of the window. Usually drapery will bunch to a quarter its width. Using this as a guide, place the hardware bracket out on the wall accordingly.

Example: A 36-inch window rod would end about 5 inches beyond the opening on each side, making the rod length needed 46 inches.

Beautiful fabric and furnishings are spoiled by skimpy draperies, so be sure to use three times the width of the space to be covered. This is called triple fullness.

The back side of pleats, raw seams, hemlines, drapery pins and rods, printed fabric, a different color fabric in every window, and sagging rods are incompatible with exterior building materials, beautiful landscaping, and the order of things.

New Furniture— Getting Value for Your Investment

DESIGN, FUNCTION, construction, and price—these are basic to every furniture purchase. To get the best buy for the money you have to invest in new furniture, ask yourself these questions: How long do you expect the furniture to last? How much do you plan to pay? What will go with your other furnishings? Knowing the answers to these and other key questions will insure more lasting value and satisfaction from your furniture.

Select with extreme care the basic pieces for sleeping, dining, seating, and storage. In considering size, think of the room where the furniture will be placed and the other furnishings with which it will be used. Carefully mea-